

peaceful demonstrations in Kiev and elsewhere to protest the unfair election and the declaration by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission that Viktor Yanukovich had won a majority of the votes;

Whereas, on November 25, 2004, the Ukrainian Supreme Court blocked the publication of the official runoff election results thus preventing the inauguration of the next president of Ukraine until the Supreme Court examined the reports of voter fraud;

Whereas on November 27, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a resolution declaring that there were violations of law during the runoff presidential election on November 21, 2004, and that the results of the election did not reflect the will of the Ukrainian people;

Whereas on December 1, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed a no confidence motion regarding the government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich;

Whereas European mediators and current Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma began discussions on December 1, 2004, to attempt to work out a resolution to the standoff between the supporters of both presidential candidates;

Whereas on December 3, 2004, the Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled that the runoff presidential election on November 21, 2004, was invalid and ordered a new presidential election to take place on December 26, 2004;

Whereas on December 8, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed laws to reform the Ukrainian electoral process, including to reconstitute the Ukrainian Central Election Commission, and to close loopholes for fraud in preparation for a new presidential election;

Whereas on December 26, 2004, the people of Ukraine again went to the polls to elect the next president of Ukraine in what the consensus of domestic and international observers declared as a more democratic, transparent, and fair election process with fewer problems than the previous two rounds;

Whereas on January 10, 2005, the election victory of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was certified by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission; and

Whereas the runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, signifies a turning point for Ukraine which offers new hope and opportunity to the people of Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the people and Government of Ukraine for their commitment to democracy and their determination to end the political crisis in that country in a peaceful and democratic manner;

(2) congratulates the people and Government of Ukraine for ensuring a free and fair runoff presidential election which represents the true choice of the Ukrainian people;

(3) congratulates Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine;

(4) applauds the Ukrainian presidential candidates, the European Union and other European representatives, and the United States Government for the role they played in helping to find a peaceful resolution of the crisis;

(5) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine and expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people and the new Government of Ukraine to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights; and

(6) pledges its assistance to the strengthening of a fully free and open democratic system in Ukraine, the creation of a prosperous free market economy in Ukraine, the reaffirmation of Ukraine's independence and territorial sovereignty, and Ukraine's full integration into the international community of democracies.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 21 until 1 p.m. on Monday, January 31. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and there then be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. On Monday, the Senate will be in a period of morning business. It is our hope we will be able to consider any nominations available for Senate action. The nomination of Samuel Bodman was reported earlier today by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. We hope that nomination can be cleared for action on Monday. We have no requests for a rollcall vote on the Bodman nomination. Therefore, rollcall votes are not anticipated during Monday's session.

Also, earlier today, Chairman SPENCER and the Judiciary Committee reported out the nomination of Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General. We will consider that nomination, as well, next week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 1 P.M., MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Therefore, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 21.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:30 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 31, 2005, at 1 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Wednesday, January 26, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CONDOLEEZZA RICE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JIM NICHOLSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT, OF UTAH, TO BE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.